



SPRING 2002

Louisiana COASTLINES

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Citizens Urged to Show Stewardship of our Wetlands

May Day 2002

May is National Wetlands Month. And this celebration has special meaning, since wetlands in Louisiana are both prime and precious property. Because erosion eats away at our coastal resources and precious wetlands, citizens all over the state are urged to help support ways to reverse our land loss rate of 25 to 35 square miles each year.

May Day (May 10 and 11) is an opportunity for citizens to demonstrate environmental and coastal stewardship by organizing, participating in and registering projects. By following these seven easy steps, participants can help organize an environmental project for May Day:

1. Meet with your family, school, or community group.
2. Study the suggestions on the project list or think up your own environmental project.
3. Set a date and time; list supplies needed and decide how to get them.
4. Send in the pre-project postcards or register online at www.lamayday.net or by calling 1-866-MAYDAY1.
5. Contact your local media prior to your event.
6. Conduct the project.
7. Send in the post-project postcard, log your experience at www.lamayday.net or call 1-866-MAYDAY1 to tell us how your project worked.

Louisiana's natural resources should not be taken for granted. It is certain that without responsible stewardship, future generations may not inherit these same resources. To preserve and protect Louisiana's coastal wetlands and environment, opportunities for action can be found in backyards, communities, schools and businesses. Some examples of projects already registered for May 10th and 11th include:

- A beach sweep in Baton Rouge around the LSU lakes. This project is being organized by graduate students of the LSU Department of Oceanography.
- A family in Abbeville will spend May Day planting irises in their backyard and will build birdhouses and bird feeders.
- In Cut Off in Lafourche parish, AmeriCorps on the Bayou members will plant cord grass along the banks of Bayou Lafourche with the help of local high school students and government officials.

By participating in Governor Foster's May Day 2002 you can make a difference. Sign up to participate in a project to help Louisiana's coastal wetlands and environment. Tell a friend. Read more about coastal wetlands at your local library or on the Internet. Call 1-866-MAYDAY1 or register and find out how people just like you are answering the call.



LA 20 Resurfacing Project Starts with the Placement of Culverts

By: Jody Chenier
St. James Parish CZM

Since the construction of LA 20 from Vacherie to Chackbay several decades ago, local residents have seen a slow deterioration of some of the wetlands along this stretch of highway. One factor contributing to this deterioration is thought to be the lack of natural water flow from within this area due to its isolation from any connecting waterways.

At the request of the St. James Parish Coastal Zone Committee and local elected officials, the LA Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) has taken steps to help alleviate this problem. The initial construction of the highway without crossing culverts has prevented this area from draining, and the results can easily be seen from the highway - old trees have died out leaving open water. The installation of the culverts will provide a tremendous amount of relief to this extremely stressed wetland area.

Parish President Dale Hymel commented, "The Parish made the request several years ago to the DOTD

for drainage consideration whenever new road construction would be undertaken. The culvert addition was well received by the DOTD and signifies not only the DOTD's commitment to the protection of our wetland areas, but should also be viewed as a commitment from federal, state, and local agencies towards efforts to stop wetland deterioration and coastal erosion."

The installation of the culverts should provide not only some immediate drainage relief but long-term and easily maintainable relief as well. Though motorists may have experienced some short delays, the culvert installation was conducted with one lane remaining open at all times, except for a few instances when equipment and materials had to be moved to accommodate the construction process.

The entire widening, raising, and resurfacing project should take approximately three months for final completion.

Did You Know? There may be a Blue Thumb Program near You

Promoting educational and outreach opportunities that focus on the importance of clean water is a major goal for Blue Thumb advocates and volunteers. Presently, there are nine parishes working on Blue Thumb projects throughout south Louisiana.

Blue Thumb projects are developed to help solve problems associated with waterway pollution, such as nonpoint source pollution.

In the fall of last year, the Imperial Calcasieu Blue Thumb project received a grant from the Department of Natural Resources (Coastal Management Division) to develop a "home sewer awareness toolbox" to be distributed to public libraries once completed. This home sewer toolbox will have informational materials on how to organize workshops and other awareness activities for youth groups and the public. (Expected distribution is the summer of 2002.)

Don't miss an opportunity to learn more about what Blue Thumb has to offer. Go to the website at www.labluthumb.org Or call the Teche/Vermilion Blue Thumb, Acadiana RC&D Council, Inc. at 337-896-0362.



Photo Gallery of Restoration Projects



Black Bayou Hydrologic Project in Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes. This self-regulating tidegate allows movement of marine life between the areas when the gate is closed. This CWPPRA project was dedicated with thirteen other coastal projects in Dec. 2001.



Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Project in St. Charles Parish. Dedicated on March 26, 2002 in Luling, LA, the \$119 million Mississippi River Delta Project will protect more than 700,000 acres of wetland habitat over a period of fifty years.

CIAP/NOAA Funds to benefit Lake Salvador Project (Phase III)



Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator joined state and local officials to visit the Lake Salvador project site on March 12, 2002. DNR Deputy Secretary Katherine Vaughan toured the existing shoreline protection project with the Admiral during his 2-day visit to Louisiana.



The Lake Salvador project is a rock breakwater project designed to protect the Salvador Wildlife Management Area, the northwest shoreline, property near the rim of the lake and a number of Native American cultural resources. One million dollars from the DNR Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) will be used to continue protecting this important coastal area.



DNR Participates in Educating Farmers



Master Farmer Program Schedule

2001

Mermentau/Vermilion-Teche Basins

Kick-off meetings - Agenda

Nov. 1 - Crowley

Nov. 8 - Opelousas

2002

Calcasieu/Ouachita Basins

2003

Barataria/Terrebonne Basins

2004

Red/Sabine Basins

2005

Pontchartrain Basin

2006

Mississippi/Atchafalaya/Pearl Basins

The LSU Ag Center is promoting improving water quality standards in Louisiana in a brand new way. By taking the lead with the *Louisiana Master Farmers Program*, and working with other state agencies, within a five year period many of our state's farmers will be trained and certified in the program.

The program's goal is to help agricultural producers address environmental stewardship through voluntary, effective and economically achievable best management practices. The program will be implemented in three phases: Environmental Stewardship, Agricultural Production, and Farm Management/Marketing. Upon completion and training in these areas, participants will receive a certificate of completion giving them full *Master Farmer* status.

Each component of the program will consist of certain subjects. The Environmental Stewardship Component will target these specific areas: Nutrient Management, Pesticide Management, Soil and Water Management, Pasture Management, General Farm BMPs, Conservation Planning and Financial Assisting Programs. The Agricultural Production Component will target both Plant and Animal Enterprises, and the Farm Management/Marketing Component will consist of Farm Financial Management and Marketing Assessment Programs.

Each year Master Farmers will be implemented in different parts of Louisiana. The main focus of the pro-

gram is watershed areas around the state. Local newspapers will announce kickoff meetings, which farmers are encouraged to attend in each targeted area. The Master Farmers Program is voluntary and free of charge. In order to register, farmers may attend a kickoff meeting in their area or contact Dr. Fred Sanders at the LSU Ag Center (225)578-4141.

Other agencies and organizations partnering with the LSU Ag Center to implement the Master Farmers Program include the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation (LFBF), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ), the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR), the USDA, the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF).

At this writing, Master Farmer Environmental Stewardship sessions have been conducted in the following parishes: Acadia, Allen, Evangeline, Jeff Davis, Lafayette, St. Martin and Vermillion. A total of 207 individuals from 11 parishes have registered and participated in these meetings. A total of 171 individuals have completed 8 hours of training. 36 individuals have completed one of the four-hour sessions, and still have to attend the remaining session for completion.

Master Farmer Website:
www.agctr.lsu.edu/wwwac



Underwater Obstructions Notice and Coordinates for the Period January 1 Through March 31, 2002

In accordance with the provisions of R.S. 56:700.1 et. seq., notice is given that 32 claims in the amount of \$94,952.28 were received for payment during the period January 1, 2002 - March 31, 2002. There were 32 claims paid and 0 claims denied.

Loran Coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

26666	46978	CAMERON
26839	46968	CAMERON
27001	46952	JEFFERSON
27093	46948	VERMILION
28286	46857	TERREBONNE
28319	46829	LAFOURCHE
28527	46855	PLAQUEMINES
28611	46853	JEFFERSON
29041	47045	ST TAMMANY
29102	46849	PLAQUEMINES
29153	47055	ORLEANS

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates of reported underwater obstructions are:

29 03.190	89 14.510	PLAQUEMINES
29 04.619	89 22.692	PLAQUEMINES
29 09.250	90 05.420	LAFOURCHE
29 12.260	90 27.580	TERREBONNE
29 14.055	89 23.505	PLAQUEMINES
29 15.003	90 42.131	TERREBONNE
29 15.720	89 57.791	JEFFERSON
29 21.050	89 46.070	PLAQUEMINES
29 22.948	91 14.833	LAFOURCHE
29 23.067	90 39.925	TERREBONNE
29 24.358	90 03.424	JEFFERSON
29 26.200	90 33.900	TERREBONNE
29 30.575	90 06.742	JEFFERSON
29 30.664	90 07.476	JEFFERSON
29 40.010	92 54.020	CAMERON
29 42.864	93 04.435	CAMERON
29 45.751	93 09.300	CAMERON
29 53.124	89 45.128	ST BERNARD
29 56.979	93 20.203	CAMERON
29 58.197	89 18.860	ST BERNARD

A list of claimants and amounts paid can be obtained from Verlie Wims, Administrator, Fishermen's Gear Compensation Fund, P.O. Box 44277, Baton Rouge, LA 70804 or you can call (225)342-0122.



Davis Pond is Largest Coastal Restoration Project in History



From L - R: DNR Secretary Jack Caldwell, US Army Corps of Engineers Lt. General Robert B. Flowers, Governor M.J. "Mike" Foster, US Army Corps of Engineers Col. Thomas Julich, US Representative W.J. "Billy" Tauzin.

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers held a dedication and opening of the world's largest coastal restoration project on March 26, 2002 at a ceremony hosted by top state and federal officials. The freshwater diversion project, called Davis Pond, was designed to protect more than 700,000 acres of precious wetland habitat in Louisiana.

The Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion Structure, Mississippi River Delta Region Project is located on La. Hwy 18 at Sings Lane in St. Charles parish. Groundbreaking for the diversion project began in 1997, and now the \$119.6 million wetland project is complete and able to divert up 10,650 cubic feet per second (cfs) of freshwater from the Mississippi River to the Barataria Bay estuary.

A group has been established to advise the DNR on operating the structure, including procedures for test operations, emergency shut-down procedures, and other matters. The group is called the Davis Pond Advisory Committee and is composed of state and federal agencies, parish governments, and representatives for landowners,

oyster and shrimp fishermen, and recreational fishermen. The DPAC will take into account the Davis Pond Technical Work Group, monitoring reports of the Barataria Bay estuarine complex, comments by state and federal agencies, public comments, and any other relevant information.

The Davis Pond project is designed to operate to the maximum extent practicable to attain the following objectives: 1) the enhancement of emergent marsh vegetation growth; 2) the reduction of marsh loss; 3) the increase in significant commercial and recreational fisheries productivity; and 4) the increase in significant commercial and recreational wildlife productivity.

DNR Secretary Jack Caldwell said the project is a bargain for the benefits it will afford the state. Governor Mike Foster and U.S. Congressman W.J. "Billy" Tauzin addressed the group of over 300 spectators, as the structure gates were opened to demonstrate the flow of water from the Mississippi River into the nearby waterways. U.S. Army Lt. General Bob Flowers came in from headquarters in Washington DC to participate in the ceremonies.

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